

WE CLAIM:

1. In a radio signal based object location system wherein location devices are provided on articles for use in locating said articles, and wherein a database is maintained relating characteristics of radio signal transmissions between said location devices and fixed devices to locations within an area, a method for maintaining said database to reflect propagation conditions, comprising providing location devices at fixed positions within said area, recording data representing radio signal transmission characteristics between said fixed position location devices and said fixed devices, and monitoring transmissions between said fixed position location devices and said fixed devices to determine changes in said characteristics of radio signal transmissions from said recorded data.

2. A method as specified in claim 1 wherein said location devices provided on articles are RFID tags, and wherein providing location devices at fixed locations comprises providing RFID tags at fixed locations.

3. A method as specified in claim 1 wherein said location devices provided on articles are WLAN transmitters, and wherein providing location devices at fixed locations comprises providing WLAN transmitters at fixed locations.

4. A method as specified in claim 3 wherein said location devices provided on articles are IEEE Standard 802.11 transmitters, and wherein providing location devices at fixed locations comprises providing IEEE Standard 802.11 transmitters at fixed locations.

5. A method as specified in claim 4 wherein providing location devices at fixed locations comprises providing IEEE Standard 802.11 transmitters having a fixed transmission format at fixed locations.

6. A method as specified in claim 1 wherein when it is determined that radio signal characteristics for signals between said fixed position location devices and said fixed devices have changed, said database is corrected to reflect signal characteristic changes.

7. A method as specified in claim 1 wherein said location devices provided on articles are WLAN transceivers, and wherein providing location devices at fixed locations comprises providing WLAN transceivers at fixed locations.

8. A method as specified in claim 7 wherein said location devices provided on articles are IEEE Standard 802.11 transceivers, and wherein providing location devices at fixed locations comprises providing IEEE Standard 802.11 transceivers at fixed locations.

9. A method as specified in claim 7 wherein providing location devices at fixed locations comprises providing WLAN transceivers at fixed locations arranged to receive signals from said fixed devices, determine signal characteristics of said received signals and transmit a message to an associated fixed device having data corresponding to said signal characteristics.